

Poky Linux with IMGUI Demo on *Raspberry π*

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1 introduction

These instructions[7] follow the configuration and build of a Linux-based *operating system* (OS) for *Raspberry π* [9] with *Yocto*[3]. Find project overview in [8].

The OS build is done in several steps organized in corresponding sections as follows. Read in Section 2 how to fetch *metadata*. Section 3 shows how to configure the OS build. In Section 4 learn how to build the OS *image* and see how to copy *image* to *SD* card in Section 5. Section 6 is dedicated to post-install issues like the configuration of the WiFi interface from the command line.

2 metadata

Metadata is a set of instructions to build targets. It is organized in *recipe* files with the `bb` extension. There are files with `bbappend` extension to modify *recipes* and *class* files with a suffix `bbclass` for instructions shared between *recipes*. The configuration files have the extension `conf`. These define configuration variables to control the build process. See a list of *metadata* file types in Table 2.

Metadata is organized in *layers*. Layers logically separate information of a project. Table 1 presents *OpenEmbedded*[2] *metadata* layer types.

The complete list of *github software* (SW) *metadata* repositories used in this project includes *Yocto* layers, the *Raspberry π board support package* (BSP) layer, a SW layer with custom recipes, and the build configuration itself. Please refer [8] for details.

In short, users fetch *metadata* in contrast to the *real data* fetched later during the OS build. See Section 4 for details. It means that users decide where to store fetched *metadata*. It is nice to have all layer sub-directories in one system location. In these instructions it is referred as `<META-DIR>`. The second directory to create is the `<BUILD-DIR>`. This is where the build and the build configuration live. I suggest that `<BUILD-DIR>` one is not inside `<META-DIR>` to not mix *data* and *metadata*.

2.1 automation

I have a *portable operating system interface* (POSIX) shell script to fetch all *metadata* from public *github* repositories. I hope that it may serve other people to build their own OS for *Raspberry π* . The script performs *metadata* fetch, the *bitbake* initialisation and a simple *metadata* verification.

| layer type | contents |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| base | base <i>metadata</i> for the build |
| machine aka BSP | <i>hardware</i> (HW) support |
| distribution | policy configuration |
| SW | additional SW |
| miscellaneous | do not fall in upper categories |

Table 1: *metadata* layer types defined by *OpenEmbedded*[2]

| file type | extension | purpose |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| recipe | bb | SW build instructions |
| recipe | bbappend | SW recipe modification |
| class | bbclass | shared instructions |
| config | conf | build definitions |
| config | inc | included build definitions |

Table 2: *metadata* file types

```
#!/bin/sh
# name:      metafetch
# purpose:   clone rpi metadata
# code:      kaloyan@triplehelix-consulting.com

FETCHER=https://github.com/
GITFETCHER=git@github.com:
BRANCH=kirkstone

LONGSFX=$(head -c 1000 /dev/random | tr -dc 'a-z')
SFX=$(expr " $LONGSFX" : ".*\(.{3}\)")
unset LONGSFX

DEFMETADIR=$HOME/yocto/$SFX/metadata
DEFBUILDIR=$HOME/yocto/$SFX/rpi4

XNAME=$(basename $0)

say() { printf "::$XNAME:: %*\n"; }
die() { say $* && exit 0 || kill $$; }
use() { # print options and quit

    printf "
usage:
\t $XNAME <options>
    option          \t purpose          \t default
    -h              \t print this      \t usage
"
```

```

-d          \t dry run          \t wet run
-g          \t switch to git protocol \t https protocol
-r <branch> \t branch          \t $BRANCH
-m <metadir> \t metadata directory \t $DEFMETADIR
-b <buildir> \t build directory  \t $DEFBUILDIR

"
    die
}

confirm() {    # get confirmation or quit

    read -p "please confirm (y/n) " choix
    [ "$choix" = "y" ] && say confirmed || die
}

[ "$SFX" ] || die try again

while getopts ":m:b:r:hg d" option; do    # parse command-line options

    case $option in

        m ) METADIR=$OPTARG;;
        b ) BUILDIR=$OPTARG;;
        r ) BRANCH=$OPTARG;;
        g ) FETCHER=$GITFETCHER;;
        d ) DRYRUN=yes;;
        h ) use;;
        * ) use;;

    esac
done

# check system path
[ "$METADIR" ] || METADIR=$DEFMETADIR
[ "$BUILDIR" ] || BUILDIR=$DEFBUILDIR
[ -d $METADIR ] || mkdir -p $METADIR || die $? cannot create $METADIR
[ -d $BUILDIR ] || mkdir -p $BUILDIR || die $? cannot create $BUILDIR
METADIR=$(realpath $METADIR) && say "metadata:\t $METADIR" || die $? cannot find
$METADIR
BUILDIR=$(realpath $BUILDIR) && say "build:\t $BUILDIR" || die $? cannot find
$BUILDIR
say "branch:\t $BRANCH"
say "protocol:\t $FETCHER"

declare -A REPO
REPO=(    # associative git repository array
    [yoctoproject/poky.git]=$METADIR/poky
    [openembedded/meta-openembedded.git]=$METADIR/oe
    [agherzan/meta-raspberrypi]=$METADIR/rpi/meta-raspberrypi
    [kaloyanski/meta-thc.git]=$METADIR/thc/meta-thc
    [TripleHelixConsulting/rpiconf.git]=$BUILDIR/conf
)

[ "$DRYRUN" ] || confirm

for repo in ${!REPO[@]}; do    # clone repositories

    command="git clone -b $BRANCH $FETCHER$repo ${REPO[$repo]}"
    say $command
    [ "$DRYRUN" ] || $command

```

```

done

[ "DRYRUN" ] && die

# adjust bitbake layer configuration
sed -i s#/home/yocto/layer/$METADIR#g $BUILDIR/conf/bblayers.conf || die sed $?

# bitbake environment
OEINIT=oe-init-build-env
cd $METADIR/poky && pwd || die $? cannot find $METADIR/poky
[ -f $OEINIT ] && . $OEINIT $BUILDIR || die $? cannot find $OEINIT

bitbake-layers show-layers

echo && say "how to start a new build"
printf "
cd $METADIR/poky
. $OEINIT $BUILDIR
bitbake core-image-the
"

```

Download `metafetch` [here](#). It is designed in a way that after a successful run one may start a build with *bitbake*. The script takes `<META-DIR>` and `<BUILD-DIR>` from the command-line. You may use next examples to run `metafetch`. The first one is a minimal example. You may specify directories like the second example. Otherwise the script will use default values. The default fetch protocol is *https* but I recommend using *git* if you can because it is an order of magnitude faster. Use the command-line option `-g` to switch. The default *git* branch is *kirkstone*. See all command-line options with `-h`.

```

./metafetch
./metafetch -m <META-DIR> -b <BUILD-DIR>
./metafetch -g

```


3 configuration

Build configuration is in `<BUILD-DIR>/conf`, check files `local.conf` and `bblayers.conf`. *Yocto* layers are specified in `bblayers.conf`. The build directives are in `local.conf`. Variables in this file control the build. Sometimes I call these *directives* to avoid repetitions. To not mix them, I have isolated target [HW](#) specific directives. Two possible targets are defined in `<BUILD-DIR>/conf/raspberrypi4-64.inc` and `<BUILD-DIR>/conf/qemuarm64.inc`. The *host* configuration is optional. See the bottom lines in `<BUILD-DIR>/conf/local.conf` for details. Note the difference between the optional `include` and not optional `require`. The latter will interrupt the build configuration if the corresponding file does not exist.

3.1 directives

Many variables are not covered here. Please refer *bitbake*[\[11\]](#) documentation for details. It is not always easy to understand the meaning and their relations. What is more, *bitbake* syntax is pretty complicated. In short, your life can easily become unbearable if the build configuration is too long. See next a list of important build configuration directives.

3.1.1 BB_DISKMON_DIRS

This *bitbake* variable enables free storage space verification. Users may add rules to monitor as many directories as they wish. Of course, it makes sense to add only directories on different storage partitions. The directive contains rules to trigger actions in case of low storage space during builds. Possible actions are *WARN*, *STOPTASKS* and *HALT*. Rules are defined in the following format.

3.1.2 DISTRO

This is the short name of the [OS](#) distribution. *Yocto* provides four variants of their reference distribution called *Poky*. See details in `<META-DIR>/poky/meta-poky/conf/distro/poky*.conf`. Some distribution dependent directive values are presented in [Table 3](#).

3.1.3 DISTRO_FEATURES

Distributions can select which features they want to support through the `DISTRO_FEATURES` variable, which is set in the distribution configuration file.

3.1.4 IMAGE_FEATURES

This directive controls the contents of the [OS image](#). Different predefined packages could be added, removed or modified via this variable. Useful examples for *image* features are *allow – empty – password*, *allow – root – login*, *empty – root – password*, *post – install – logging*, *splash*, *package-management* and *ssh-server-dropbear*.

3.1.5 IMAGE_FSTYPES

This is another important directive. Here I have removed archived *images* to decrease the built time and added the *wic* format. One may want to use the *wic* command-line tool to list the partitions on a *wic image*. See how to copy *wic* to an *SD* card in [Section 5](#).

3.1.6 IMAGE_OVERHEAD_FACTOR

This defines the free storage space on the `root` partition. Overhead factor of 2 means that the free space will be equal to the space already used by the OS. This will double the size of the image. The default value of 1.3 increases *image* size with 30%.

3.1.7 INHERIT

This is a list of included *bitbake* classes. See Section 3.2.

3.1.8 INIT_MANAGER

The OS *init* process could be `sysvinit`, `systemd` or `mdev-busybox`.

3.1.9 MACHINE

No doubt, this is the most important directive, set here to *raspberrypi4-64*. You may want to change this value if you build an OS for a different HW. If you want to emulate *Raspberry π* on your host machine with *qemu*, set *MACHINE* to *qemuarm64*. I confirm that this works although I did not find this approach very useful to test a *graphical user interface* (GUI).

3.1.10 MACHINE_FEATURES

This directive controls machine features. It is set in the machine configuration file and specifies the hardware features for a given machine.

3.1.11 PACKAGE_CLASSES

There are different package formats used in various Linux-based OS's to distribute and manage programs. Both *Debian* package format -

deb and *rpm* from *RedHat* do well, but recently I had issues with *ipk* so I disabled it.

3.1.12 PACKAGE_INSTALL

This is where to specify additional [SW](#) packages. This is useful for packages not included in the *image* by default. In my experience, the default [OS](#) has all necessary programs or compact alternatives. However this is the directive used to append *imgui*.

3.1.13 SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS

This is a list of tested *GNU is not UNIX* ([GNU](#))/Linux distributions. Using another distribution is not prohibited, but a warning messages is generated each time *bitbake* is run. One may want to append the host machine Linux distribution to get rid of this warning. See next examples for users of rolling releases from *Manjaro* and *OpenSuse*.

```
SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS: append = " manjaro "  
SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS: append = " tumbleweed -*"
```

3.1.14 TCLIBC

The [GNU](#) standard C library variant to use during the build. Available options are `glibc`, `musl`, `newlib` and `baremetal`.

3.2 classes

3.2.1 rm_work

Find *bitbake* classes in `<META-DIR>/poky/meta/classes`. For example `rm_work.bbclass` defines a specific task for packages to remove intermediate files generated during the build. This decreases storage

| config file | INIT_MANAGER | TCLIBC | status |
|--------------------|--------------|--------|---------|
| poky.conf | sysvinit | glibc | fine |
| poky-bleeding.conf | sysvinit | glibc | unknown |
| poky-altcfg.conf | systemd | glibc | unknown |
| poky-tiny.conf | mdev-busybox | musl | unknown |

Table 3: reference distribution configurations

space about twice. Those who want to keep the working data and have enough storage space may comment the next line in `local.conf`.

```
INHERIT:append = " rm_work"
```

4 build

It is very likely that you will need to install *Yocto* requirements[4] to be able to run *bitbake*. The list of *Yocto* sanity checked distributions currently includes *poky-3.3*, *poky-3.4*, *Ubuntu-18.04*, *Ubuntu-20.04*, *Ubuntu-22.04*, *Fedora-37*, *Debian – 11*, *OpenSUSEleap-15.3* and *AlmaLinux-8.8*. But I use *bitbake* on *Manjaro* - a not officially supported GNU/Linux distribution. That is why I guess that it should not be complicated to satisfy requirements on a GNU/Linux machine. Of course, binary files are not the same on different HW architectures, but the OS has a Linux kernel and standard open-source programs.

4.1 requirements

Ensure that the following packages are installed.

- *git*
- *tar*
- *python*
- *gcc*
- GNU *make*

Find more details in *Yocto* documentation at [4]. You may need to install in addition *diffstat*, *unzip*, *texinfo*, *chrpath*, *wget*, *xterm*, *sdl*, *rpcsvc – proto*, *socat*, *cpio*, *lz4*, *gawk*, *findutils*, *crypt* and *inetutils* packages. As a double check, make sure to have the following command-line tools on your host machine: *chrpath*, *diffstat*, *lz4c*, *rpcgen*, *bash*, *bzip2*, *file*, *grep*, *patch*, *sed*.

Fetched *metadata* requires only 412 MB of free space but the build may need up to 30 GB or even 50 GB if intermediate files are kept. Read for the *bitbake* class *rm_work* in Section 3.

4.2 environment

To initialise build environment navigate to `<META-DIR>/poky` and source the initialization script like the next command.

```
source oe-init-build-env <BUILD-DIR>
```

Alternatively verify and source the dedicated script `<META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/bin/yoctoinit`. The initialization script will change the system path to `<BUILD-DIR>`. Now you may want run next command to check project layers.

```
bitbake-layers show-layers
```

core-image-thc is a compact OS image with a *X* server and a GUI[5] example. The primary build tool of *OpenEmbedded* based projects, such as the *Yocto* project is *bitbake*. Run next command to build the OS.

```
bitbake core-image-thc
```

Unless your host machine is a supercomputer, this will take at least two hours. Find a list of tasks performed by *bitbake* for a typical SW package in Table 4.

4.3 flow

The build happens in `<BUILD-DIR>`. Table 5 presents a list of important `<BUILD-DIR>` sub-directories.

Source archives are saved in the *download* directory. They are extracted, configured, compiled and installed in the *work* directory. SW packages are created and stored in the *package* directory. Finally,

| task | description |
|----------------------|--|
| do_fetch | fetch the source code |
| do_unpack | unpack the source code |
| do_patch | apply patches to the source |
| do_configure | source configuration |
| do_compile | compile the source code |
| do_install | copy files to the holding area |
| do_populate_sysroot | copy files to the staging area |
| do_package | analyse holding area |
| do_package_qa | check quality |
| do_package_write_rpm | deploy SW package in <i>rpm</i> format |
| do_package_qa | quality checks on the package |

Table 4: *bitbake* tasks

following the build configuration packages are unpacked to create the [OS image](#) found in the *image* directory.

| name | location | description |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| configuration | conf | build configuration files |
| download | downloads | fetches SW source code archives |
| work | tmp/work | working directory |
| package | tmp/deploy/rpm | final SW packages in <i>rpm</i> format |
| image | tmp/deploy/images | boot files, kernels and <i>images</i> |

Table 5: *bitbake* workflow

5 install

The [OS](#) includes a kernel *ARM*, 64bit boot executable *image* of 23 MB, a *Raspberry* π configuration of Linux 5.15. This is a *long-term support* ([LTS](#)) kernel release. The total size of kernel modules is 21 MB.

Yocto provides multiple package and *image* formats. Different ways exist to install *images* on *SD* card. The [OS](#) has two partitions - `/root` and `/boot`. There are no *swap* and *home* partitions.

I recommend the classic command-line tool *dd* to copy data. It works fine with different *image* formats like *rpi-sdimg*, *hddimg* and *wic*. The last one is recommended. Find the *SD* card device name, in example `/dev/<xxx>`, unmount it with *umount* if mounted, and do copy data with the next command.

```
dd if=core-image-thc-raspberrypi4-64.wic of=/dev/<xxx> status=progress
```

- note 1: run this command in `<BUILD-DIR>/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi4-64`
- note 2: run this command with *root* privileges
- note 3: be careful to not specify the device name of your hard drive (see note 2)

Alternatively, there is a dedicated [POSIX](#) shell script - `<META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/bin/burn`. Use the command-line option `-h` for details. The transfer does not take a lot of time. When it is over, replace the card to *Raspberry* π and turn it on. That's it.

6 run

Wireless connection is established via classic command-line tools like `ip`[\[1\]](#) and `iw`. The *dynamic host configuration protocol* (DHCP) client is `udhcpc`[\[1\]](#), and `wpa_passphrase`[\[10\]](#) stores WiFi connections. A dedicated [POSIX](#) shell script named `wifini.sh` is installed in `/usr/bin`, as well as a running [GUI](#) example to demonstrate the usage of the *Dear ImGui*[\[5\]](#) library. The last one is configured to start automatically on boot in `/home/root/.profile`.

```
#!/bin/sh
# name:      wifini.sh
# purpose:   wifi connection
# code:      kaloyansen at gmail dot com
# require:   wpa_passphrase, wpa_supplicant, ip, iw, grep, awk
#####

# files
MYNAME='basename $0'
WPACONF=/etc/wpa_supplicant.conf
IFCONF=/etc/network/interfaces

# command-line tools
WPAPASS=/usr/bin/wpa_passphrase
IW=/usr/sbin/iw
WPASUPP=/usr/sbin/wpa_supplicant
DHCP=/sbin/udhcpc
IP=/sbin/ip

die() { echo $MYNAME $* && exit 0; }
say() { echo $MYNAME $*; }
auto() { # enable wifi connection on boot
    patch=auto\ $WIFACE
    say $patch
    grep "$patch" $1 > /dev/null || printf "
$patch
# wpa-roam $WPACONF

" >> $1;
}

[ "$USER" = "root" ] || die run with root privileges

# get wifi interface and network ssid
IWD='$IW dev'
WIFACE='echo $IWD | grep Interface | awk '{print $3}''
SSID='getopt s: $* | awk '{print $2}''

say whoami: $0

[ $SSID ] && say network: $SSID || die specify network: $MYNAME -s SSID
[ $WIFACE ] && say interface: $WIFACE || die wireless interface not found
```

```

# verify connexion
echo $IWD | grep $SSID > /dev/null && die $SSID connected || say connecting $SSID

# up interface
$IIP link show $WIFACE | grep UP > /dev/null || $IIP link set $WIFACE up

# search network
$IW $WIFACE scan | grep $SSID > /dev/null || die cannot find $SSID

FINE='grep $SSID $WPACONF'

# die debug $FINE

# 1. save network in $WPACONF
[ $FINE ] && say $SSID already configured || $WPAPASS $SSID >> $WPACONF

# 2. configure wifi to start on boot in $IFCONF
[ -f $IFCONF ] && auto $IFCONF || die $IFCONF not found

# 3. reboot
say reboot in six seconds && sleep 3
say reboot in three seconds && sleep 2
say reboot in one second && sleep 1
# yeah no kidding
reboot & die see you later || kill $$

# control files
WPASOCKET=/run/wpa_supplicant/$WIFACE

# process id files
WPAPID=/run/wpa_supplicant.$WIFACE.pid
DHCPID=/run/udhcp.$WIFACE.pid

# recreate wpa socket
rm $WPASOCKET
$WPASUPP -B -D wext -i $WIFACE -c $WPACONF || say cannot create $WPASOCKET

# start a dhcp client
$DHCP -i $WIFACE || die $?

$IIP addr show $WIFACE
$IW $WIFACE link
$IIP route show

```

The scrip may be downloaded [here](#) but it is already installed on the target OS. Specify network *id* from the command line with a short command-line option *s*. See next example usage.

```
wifini -s <SSID>
```

Once an *internet protocol* (IP) address is assigned to *Raspberry* π , the *secure shell* (SSH) server by *Dropbear*[6] allows for secure remote login, control and file transfer.

7 outlook

This reports the progress in the development of a custom Linux-based OS for *Raspberry π* [9]. The kernel version of this embedded OS is Linux release 5.15. An example GUI application using the *Dear ImGui* library is built as a part of the OS image. In addition, an SSH server provides remote connection, data transfer and device control. As the OS is now functional, performance and real-time tests are ongoing.

acronyms

| | |
|-------|--|
| BSP | <i>board support package</i> |
| DHCP | <i>dynamic host configuration protocol</i> |
| GNU | <i>GNU is not UNIX</i> |
| GUI | <i>graphical user interface</i> |
| HW | <i>hardware</i> |
| IP | <i>internet protocol</i> |
| LTS | <i>long – term support</i> |
| OS | <i>operating system</i> |
| POSIX | <i>portable operating system interface</i> |
| SSH | <i>secure shell</i> |
| SW | <i>software</i> |

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